

1934, the highest wind speed ever observed by man was recorded at 231 miles per hour at the summit of Mount Washington. Given the breadth and importance of the data and observations, the Mount Washington Observatory opened its mountaintop museum in 1973 to provide educational opportunities to the public.

Over the past four decades, the Observatory's mountaintop museum has established itself as a world-class resource for science education. Each year, more than 100,000 visitors come to the museum to get a taste of the world's worst weather. Starting this summer, visitors will benefit from an enhanced experience at the state's most visited museum with the development of the Observatory's aptly named Extreme Mount Washington experience. This project, which will be officially unveiled this month, represents the largest and most significant undertaking by the Observatory in decades.

Today, I recognize this major accomplishment by the Mount Washington Observatory and share in their excitement as they reopen the museum for Extreme Mount Washington. Extreme Mount Washington is an interactive, hands-on experience that will provide visitors with an unparalleled window into Mount Washington's extreme conditions.

In keeping with New Hampshire tradition, this significant project was made possible through the collaborative efforts and generosity of over 400 individuals and organizations, and I commend them for their support. Moreover, the Gladys Brooks Foundation, Putnam Foundation, Public Service of New Hampshire and Northeast Utilities Foundation, Jane's Trust, and the Neil & Louise Tillotson Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation all deserve special recognition for their significant contributions to the project.

As a lifelong resident of the Granite State, Mount Washington represents the playground of the North Country that was a critical part of my formative years. Even now, a painting of Mount Washington hangs in my Washington office, providing a taste of New Hampshire for all who visit me in our nation's capital. I am thrilled that the Extreme Mount Washington experience will make this larger-than-life symbol more accessible to all who visit our state.

COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY AND REMEMBERING THE MEMBERS OF THE GREATEST GENERATION WHO SAVED FREEDOM IN THE WORLD

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in humble gratitude to commemorate the 70th anniversary of D-Day, the Allied Forces' audacious amphibious landing at Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944.

"Operation Overlord," as D-Day was formally known, was the largest single amphibious assault in the history of warfare.

The success of D-Day, which was far from certain at the outset, led to the liberation of Western Europe, signaled the death knell of the German Wehrmacht, and paved the way to unconditional victory by the Allied Forces

over the evils of Nazism, fascism, and Japanese imperialism.

It is no exaggeration to say that D-Day changed the course of human history.

The aim of the meticulously planned D-Day operation was to open a second front in the European war theater from which the Allied Forces could attack the German army and push east to capture Berlin. With the Russian Army advancing from the east, coupled with the southern front opened by the Allied invasion of Italy from North Africa in 1942, the opening of a western front would set in motion the pincer movement that would catch the German Army in a trap from which there would be no escape.

The formidable German Army expected that the Allied Forces would try to launch an invasion from the western beaches of France, they just did not know when or where. So in anticipation of an Allied invasion, the Nazis constructed the infamous Atlantic Wall, an extensive system of coastal fortifications built along the western coast of Europe and Scandinavia.

Under the direction of Field Marshal Rommel, the Atlantic Wall was reinforced by the addition of concrete pillboxes built along the beaches to house machine guns, antitank guns and light artillery. Mines and antitank obstacles were planted on the beaches themselves and underwater obstacles and mines were placed in waters just off shore.

By the time of the D-Day landing, the Nazis had laid almost six million mines in northern France. And awaiting Allied soldiers who made their way on to and away from the beaches were gun emplacements and minefields extended inland.

"War is hell," said General William Tecumseh Sherman during the Civil War. And that is an apt description of what awaited the brave Allied warriors who set sail from England to the beaches of Normandy in the early morning of June 6, 1944, at the beginning of what has rightly been called "The Longest Day."

But they were buoyed in their resolve by the millions of prayers from Americans and others back home, of all races, religions, and creeds, invoking the Lord's blessing, mercy, and grace. With the outcome in doubt, President Franklin Roosevelt asked the nation to join him in this solemn prayer:

Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity.

Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith.

They will need Thy blessings.

For these men are lately drawn from the ways of peace.

They fight not for the lust of conquest.

They fight to end conquest.

They fight to liberate.

They fight to let justice arise, and tolerance and goodwill among all Thy people.

They yearn but for the end of battle, for their return to the haven of home.

The prayers were needed because the cost of D-Day was high. U.S. casualties on D-Day totaled more than 2,499 dead, 3,184 wounded, 1,928 missing, and 26 captured.

Our British and Canadian allies suffered terrible losses on D-Day as well: approximately 2,700 for the British and 946 for the Canadians. German casualties are estimated at 4,000 to 9,000.

In total, the number of combatants killed, wounded or missing in the Battle of Normandy

for both sides exceeded 425,000, not including the estimated 15,000 to 20,000 French civilians killed.

But the operation was a success. More than 156,000 troops or paratroopers came ashore on D-Day, 73,000 from the U.S., 83,000 from Great Britain and Canada.

By the end of June 11, D-Day+5, 326,547 troops, 54,186 vehicles and 104,428 tons of supplies had come ashore.

And with them the seeds for the victory in Europe that would come less than a year later, on May 8, 1945, with the fall of Berlin and the unconditional surrender of the Nazis.

On the eve of the Normandy invasion, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces, addressed the soldiers, sailors, and airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Forces to let them know that they were about to embark upon the "Great Crusade," and that the "eyes of the world were upon you."

He told them that their task would not be easy because the "enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely." But, General Eisenhower said, "this is the year 1944. The tide has turned. The free men of the world are marching together to victory."

And march to victory they did, full justifying General Eisenhower's "confidence in [their] courage, devotion to duty, and skill in battle."

Because of the heroism of these men who willingly risked their lives to be the tip of the spear of liberty, the war was won and a world was saved for freedom.

Mr. Speaker, D-Day was, and remains, a day like no other in the history of man's sojourn on earth.

We remember Gettysburg. There, President Lincoln paid tribute to those "who gave their lives so that the nation might live."

And it is equally fitting and proper that we remember D-Day. And that we continue to honor those who risked all and gave all so that the world could remain free.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 271, I was unable to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING NATALY AND STEPHEN NEUWIRTH

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, religious institutions such as Young Israel of New Rochelle (YINR) play a critical role in ensuring the voices of our community's most vulnerable residents do not go unheard, thanks to the selfless dedication of individuals like Nataly and Stephen Neuwirth. For more than a decade, the Neuwirths have worked to sustain a community built on charity, tolerance and empathy.